

Serial No. 09/780,903
Art Unit: 3634

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants herewith submit a copy of fig. 5 and fig. 6 with changes shown in red.

Applicants request approval for amending the drawings.

When the drawings are amended, Applicants will submit a copy of the amended specification to conform the specification to the drawings.

DISCUSSION

Claims 5 and 12 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection to the form of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112. The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the specification and claims as originally filed. None of the amendments to the claims have been entered to overcome any prior art reference of which Applicants are aware.

Applicants have submitted corrected drawings for approval by the Examiner. When approval by the Examiner is received, Applicants will submit corrected drawings and amended pages of the specification to conform the specification to the changes in the drawings.

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Callas (U.S. 6,093,469). Applicants respectfully submit that Callas neither teaches nor suggests the present invention. As presently claimed, the invention is directed to a flexible sheet having a top surface and a bottom surface wherein the flexible sheet is comprised of a first polymeric resin which is sufficiently soft to render the flexible sheet non-curling and the bottom surface non-skid and a plurality of upwardly extending ridges on the top surface of the flexible sheet, said upwardly extending ridges being comprised of a second polymeric resin which is harder than the first polymeric resin and which provides a low friction surface on the top edges of said upwardly extending ridges.

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Applicants submit that Callas is not pertinent to the present invention since it neither teaches nor suggests a flexible sheet having upwardly extending ridges comprised of a second polymeric resin which is harder than the first polymeric resin.

Callas discloses a carpet type structure in which loops of a polymeric filament extend from a surface of a random web of needle punched and heat bonded fibers.

The upper surface of the structure does not comprise ridges of a material which is harder than the flexible sheet which is non-curling and non-skid. Applicants respectfully submit that the looped fibers are not equivalent to the ridges required in the present invention.

Don't have it

Applicants herewith submit a copy of the American Heritage Dictionary of the English language, page 117, which provides a definition of a ridge. The looped fibers do not correspond to the definition of a ridge. Applicants therefor respectfully submit that Callas would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Martey (U.S. 5,865,664). Applicants respectfully submit that Martey neither teaches nor suggest the present invention. Martey is directed to a jumping mat popping toy with an upper surface comprised of many soft micro bubbles extending from the upper surface. A soft upper layer is adherent to a stiff bottom layer. The stiff bottom layer has sufficient rigidity that the mat lies flat when jumped upon and cannot wrap around and suffocate a child. Applicants respectfully submit that the stiff bottom layer required in the Martey invention is far different from the flexible sheet which is non-curling and non-skid. In addition, the bubbles do not correspond to the definition of ridges. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Martey would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carla (sic Callas) or Martey and further in view of Naka (U.S. 4,060,947). Applicants respectfully submit that Callas, Martey and Naka, whether considered alone or combination, would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

The deficiencies in Callas and Martey have been discussed in great detail above.

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Applicants submit that a combination of Naka with Callas or Martey would neither teach nor suggest the present invention.

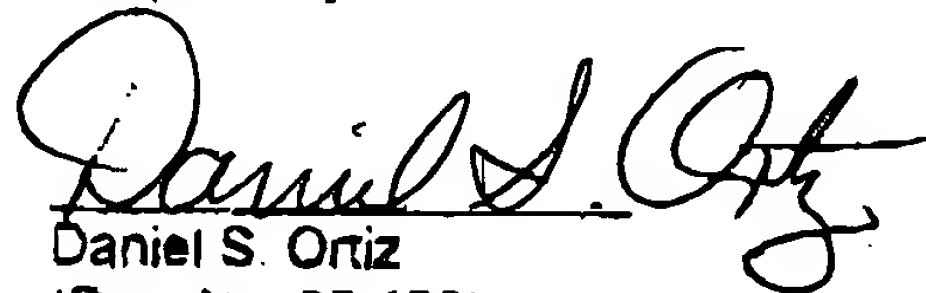
The present invention requires that the bottom surface be non-skid surface and that the ridges on the top surface provide a low friction surface. One skilled in the art applying the teachings of Martey would require that the top surface be a non-skid surface rather than a low friction surface. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Callas or Martey modified according to the teachings of Naka would arrive at a liner structure which had a non-skid or non-slip upper surface.

As taught in the present application, the harder material which comprise the ridges has a low coefficient of friction to permit easy removal of objects placed on the mat. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the combination of Callas or Martey with Naka would neither nor suggest the present invention.

In view of the amendments entered in the claims and the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Applicants will be looking forward to approval to the changes suggested for the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,



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PAGE SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

5. The liner structure of claim 4 wherein the downwardly extending ridges [are flat or rounded] have a profile selected from the group consisting of flat end and rounded end.
12. The liner structure of claim 1 wherein a hardness of the second polymeric resin is harder than a hardness of the first polymeric resin by at least 3 Shore A Hardness units.

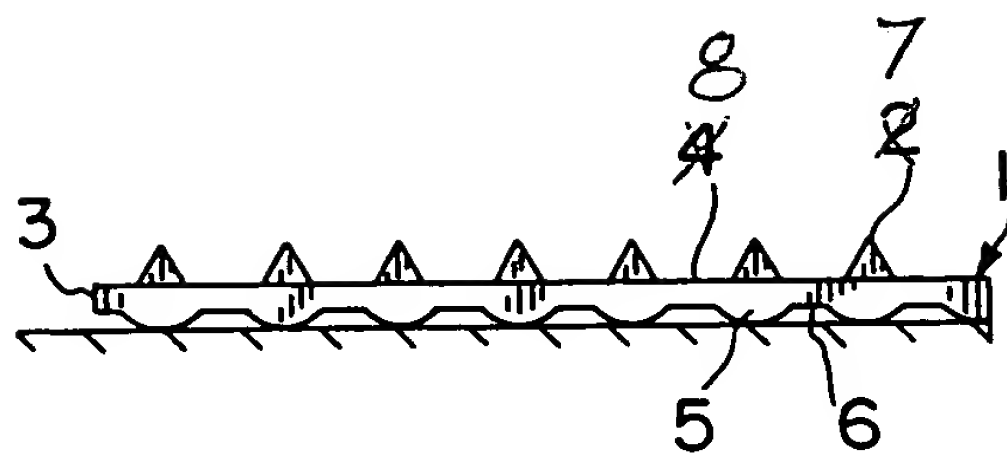


FIG. 5

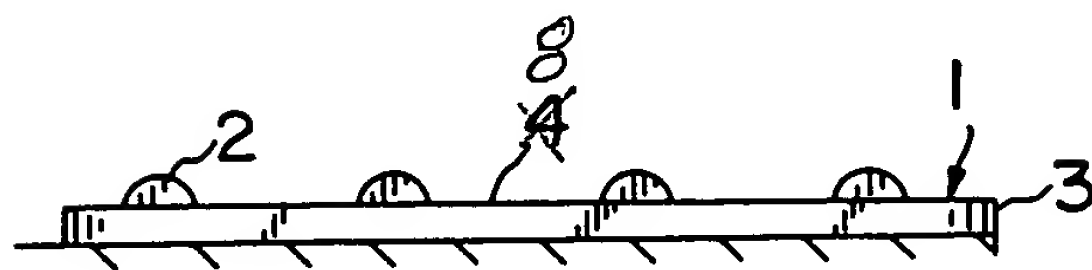


FIG. 6

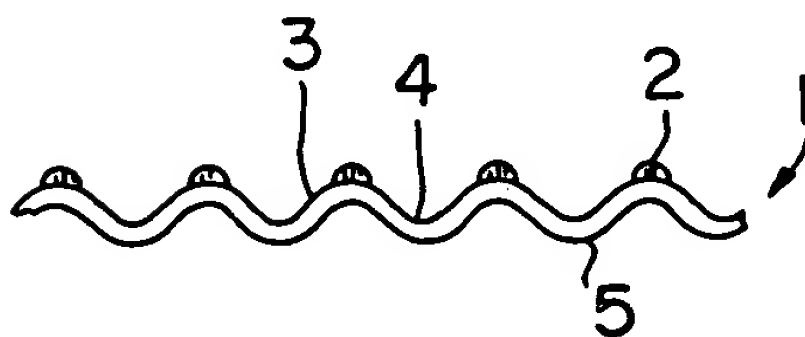
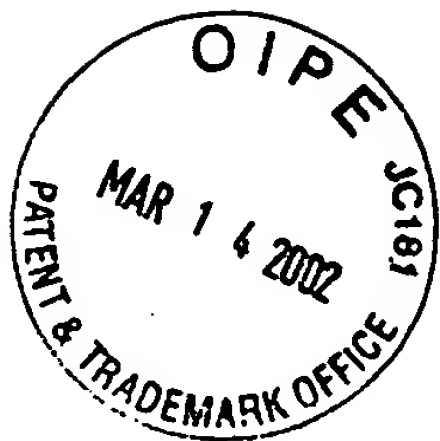


FIG. 7

DRAWING
CORRECTION
APPROVED
KHT
05/21/02
DPS



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rid-den (rid'n). Past participle of *ride*. —*adj.* Dominated. Usually used in combination: *disease-ridden*; *grief-ridden*.

rid-dle (rid'l) *tr.v.* -dled, -dling, -dles. 1. To pierce with numerous holes; perforate: *riddle with bullets*. 2. To put through a coarse sieve. 3. To find or show weaknesses in; disprove or damage. —*n.* A coarse sieve for separating and grading materials such as gravel and the like: *a potato riddle*. [Middle English *rid(d)len*, to sift, from *riddil*, sieve, Old English *hriddel*, *hriddler*. See *sker-* in Appendix.*] —*rid'dler n.*

rid-dle (rid'l) *n.* 1. A question or statement requiring thought to answer or understand; conundrum. 2. Something perplexing; an enigma. —*v.* riddled, -dling, -dles. —*tr.* To solve or explain. —*intr.* 1. To solve or propound riddles. 2. To speak in riddles. [Middle English *redell(es)*, *ridil*, Old English *rædelse*. See *ar-* in Appendix.*] —*rid'dler n.*

ride (rid) *v.* rode (rōd), ridden (rid'n), riding, rides. —*intr.* 1. To sit on, control, and be conveyed by an animal or a machine. 2. To be conveyed in a vehicle, such as an automobile, boat, aircraft, or the like. 3. To travel over a surface: *This car rides well*. 4. To float or move on or as if on water: *He rode into office on a tide of discontent*. 5. To lie at anchor. 6. To seem to be floating in space: *a star riding in the sky*. 7. To carry a rider or support something in a particular manner. 8. To lie over something; overlap. Used especially of bones. 9. To work or move from the proper place. Used with *up*. 10. To allow to continue undisturbed by any action: *We let the problem ride*.

—*tr.* 1. To sit on and drive. 2. To be supported or carried upon: *a swimmer riding the waves*. 3. To travel over, along, or through: *ride the highways*. 4. To rest upon by overlapping; overlap. 5. To take part in or do by riding: *He rode his last race*. 6. To control or dominate. 7. To cause to ride; especially, to cause to be carried: *ride him out of town on a rail*. 8. To keep (a vessel) at anchor. 9. *Informal*. To tease or ridicule. 10. To copulate with. —*ride for a fall*. To court danger or disaster. —*ride herd on*. To keep watch or control over. —*ride out*. To withstand or survive successfully. —*ride roughshod over*. To take a course of action without regard for the feelings, opinions, or welfare of others. —*ride to hounds*. To follow foxhounds, harriers, or the like on horseback during a hunt. —*n.* 1. An excursion or journey by any means of conveyance, as on horseback, in an automobile, or on a boat. 2. A path made for riding on horseback, especially through woodlands. 3. In amusement parks and similar places, any of various structures in which persons ride for pleasure or excitement. —*take for a ride*. *Slang*.

1. To transport to a place and kill (someone). 2. To deceive or swindle. [Ride, rode, ridden; Middle English *riden*, *rad* (or *rod*), *riden*; Old English *ridan*, *rād*, *riden* (unattested). See *reidh-* in Appendix.*]

Ri-deau Canal (ri-dō'). A canal in Canada, linking the Ottawa River and Lake Ontario between Ottawa and Kingston.

rid-er (ri'dər) *n.* 1. One who or that which rides. 2. One who rides horses. 3. A clause, usually having little relevance to the main issue, added to a legislative bill. 4. An amendment or addition to a document or record. 5. Anything that rests upon or is supported by something else, as the top rail of a fence.

ridge (rij) *n.* 1. The long, narrow upper section or crest of something: *ridge of a wave*. 2. A long, narrow land elevation; a long hill or chain of mountains. 3. A long, narrow, or crested part of the body: *the ridge of the nose*. 4. The horizontal line formed by the juncture of two sloping planes; especially, the line formed by the surfaces of a roof. 5. Any narrow raised strip, as in cloth or on plowed ground. —*v.* ridged, ridging, ridges. —*tr.* To mark with, form into, or provide with ridges. —*intr.* To form ridges. [Middle English *rigge*, back, ridge, Old English *hrycg*. See *sker-* in Appendix.*]

ridge-back (rij'bāk') *n.* An African breed of hunting dog, a Rhodesian ridgeback (see).

ridge-ling (rij'ling) *n.* Also *ridg-ling*. *Veterinary Medicine*. A male animal with one or two undescended testicles. [Obsolete *ridgel*, probably "(animal) with testes near the back," from *ridge*.]

ridge-pole (rij'pōl') *n.* 1. A horizontal beam at the ridge of a roof, to which the rafters are attached. 2. The horizontal pole at the top of a tent. Also called "ridge beam," "ridge piece."

Ridg-way (rij'wā'), **Matthew Bunker**. Born 1895. American army officer.

ridg-y (rij'ē) *adj.* -ier, -iest. Having or forming ridges.

rid-i-cule (rid'ə-kyōōl') *n.* Words or actions intended to evoke contemptuous laughter at or feelings toward a person or thing. —*tr.v.* ridiculed, -culing, -cules. To deride, mock, or make fun of. [French *ridicule*, from Latin *ridiculum*, joke, jest, from *ridiculus*, laughable, RIDICULOUS.] —*rid'i-cul'er n.*

Synonyms: *ridicule*, *mock*, *taunt*, *twit*, *deride*, *gibe*. These verbs concern the efforts of one to find amusement or delight at the expense of another; they vary from mere mischief to sheer malice. *Ridicule* refers to the attempt to arouse laughter or merriment at another's expense by making fun of or belittling him. *Mock* implies contempt through caricature. *Taunt* suggests reproach through sarcasm. *Twit* applies to an effort to ridicule by calling attention to something embarrassing. *Deride* implies scorn and contempt in demeaning another. *Gibe* refers to light taunting of someone over something trivial or humorous.

rid-i-cu-lous (ri-dik'yə-ləs) *adj.* Deserving or inspiring ridicule; absurd or preposterous; silly or laughable. See *Synonyms* at *laugh*. [Latin *ridiculōsus*, *ridiculus*, laughable, from *ridere*, to laugh.] —*ri-dic'u-lous-ly adv.* —*ri-dic'u-lous-ness n.*

rid-ing (ri'ding) *n.* 1. The action of riding. 2. Horseback riding. —*adj.* Suitable for, used in, or pertaining to riding.

rid-ing (ri'ding) *n.* 1. Any one of the three administrative

divisions of Yorkshire, England: North Riding, East Riding, and West Riding. 2. Any similar administrative division; specifically, in Canada, a constituency represented by a member of Parliament. [Middle English *riding*, *rithing* (in *Northing* for *Nort Trithing*), Old English *thrithing*, from Old Norse *thrith-jungr*, third part, from *thrithi*, third. See *trei-* in Appendix.*]

riding habit. The costume worn by a horseback rider.

rid-ley (rid'lē) *n., pl.* -leys. A marine turtle, *Lepidochelys kempi*, of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coastal waters. [Perhaps from the name *Ridley*.]

Rid-ley (rid'lē), **Nicholas**. 1500?–1555. English Protestant prelate and martyr.

Rie-ka. See *Rijeka*.

ri-el (rē-ēl') *n.* The basic monetary unit of Cambodia, equal to 100 sen. See table of exchange rates at *currency*. [Perhaps from Spanish *real*, *REAL* (coin).]

Ri-el (rē-ēl'), **Louis**. 1844–1885. French Canadian rebel leader; executed for treason.

Rie-mann-ian geometry (rē-mān'ē-on). A non-Euclidean geometry based on the postulate that there are no parallel lines. Also called "elliptic geometry." [Introduced by Georg Friedrich Bernhard Riemann (1826–1866), German mathematician.]

Ri-en-zi (rē-ēn'zē), **Cola di**. Also **Ri-en-zo** (rē-ēn'zō). Original name, Niccolò Gabrini. 1313?–1354. Italian patriot; proclaimed tribune (1347); assassinated.

Ries-ling (rēs'ling) *n.* A dry white wine similar to Rhine wine. [German, earlier *Rüssling*.]

Ries-man (rēs'mən, rēz-), **David**. Born 1909. American sociologist.

Rif (rif). Also **Riff**, **Er Rif** (ēr rif), **Er Riff**. A coastal arc of hills in northern Morocco, Africa. —*Rif-fi-an adj. & n.*

rife (rif) *adj.* rifer, rifest. 1. Frequently or commonly happening or appearing; widespread; prevalent. 2. Abundant; numerous. 3. Abounding; full. Used with *with*: *That department is rife with incompetents*. —See *Synonyms* at *prevailing*. [Middle English *rif*, *ryse*, Old English *ryse*. See *rei-* in Appendix.*]

riff (rif) *n.* *Music*. A short rhythmic phrase repeated constantly. [Probably shortened variant of *REFRAIN*.]

Riff (rif) *n.* Also **Rif-fi-an** (rif'ē-on) (for sense 1). 1. A Berber tribesman of the Rif country in northern Morocco, Africa. 2. See *Rif*.

rif-ple (rif'plē) *n.* 1. A rocky shoal or sandbar lying just below the surface of a waterway. 2. A stretch of choppy water caused by such a shoal or sandbar; a rapid. 3. *Mining*. a. The sectional stone or wood bottom lining of a sluice, arranged to trap mineral particles, as of gold. b. A groove or block in such a lining. 4. The act of shuffling cards. —*v.* riffled, -fling, -fles. —*tr.* 1. To shuffle (playing cards) by holding part of a deck in each hand and raising up the edges before releasing them to fall alternately in one stack. 2. To thumb through (the pages of a book, for example). —*intr.* 1. To shuffle cards. 2. To become choppy, as water. [Perhaps blend of *RUFFLE* (disturb) and *RIPPLE*.]

rif-pler (rif'plər) *n.* A file with curved ends suitable for scraping. [Old French *rifloir*, from *rifler*, to scratch, file.]

riff-raff (rif'rāf') *n.* 1. Worthless or disreputable persons. 2. Rubbish; trash. [Middle English *riffe raffe*, *rif* and *raf*, one and all, from Old French *rif* et *raf*: *rifler*, to file (see *riffler*) + *raffe*, a sweeping, from Middle High German *raffen*, to snatch (see *raffle*).]

ri-fle (ri'fəl) *n.* 1. A firearm with a rifled bore designed to be fired from the shoulder. 2. An artillery piece or naval gun with such spiral grooves. 3. *Plural*. Troops armed with rifles. —*tr.v.* rifled, -fling, -fles. To cut spiral grooves within (a gun barrel, for example). [Originally, "spiral groove," from *rifle*, to cut spiral grooves, from Old French *rifler*, to file. See *riffler*.]

ri-fle (ri'fəl) *tr.v.* -fled, -fling, -fles. 1. To search with intent to steal. 2. To ransack or plunder; pillage. 3. To rob; strip bare: *rifle a safe*. [Middle English *riflen*, from Old French *rifler*, to scratch, file, plunder. See *riffler*.] —*ri'fler n.*

ri-fle-bird (ri'fəl-būrd') *n.* Any of several birds of paradise of the genera *Craspedophora* and *Ptiloris*, of Australia and New Guinea. [From its cry.]

ri-fle-ry (ri'fəl-rē) *n.* 1. The art and practice of marksmanship. 2. Rifle fire: *the sound of distant riflery*.

ri-fle-scope (ri'fəl-skōp') *n.* A telescopic sight for a rifle.

ri-fling (ri'fling) *n.* 1. The process or operation of cutting spiral grooves in a rifle barrel. 2. Grooves so cut.

rift (rift) *n.* 1. a. *Geology*. A fault (see). b. A narrow fissure in rock. 2. A break in friendly relations. —*v.* rifted, rifting, rifts. —*intr.* To split open; burst; break. —*tr.* To cause to split open or break. [Middle English *rifst*, *ryft*, from Scandinavian, akin to Danish *rift*, breach. See *rei-* in Appendix.*]

rift (rift) *n.* 1. A shallow area in a waterway. 2. The backwash of a wave that has broken upon a beach. [Probably variant of *riff*, dialectal variant of *REEF*.]

riff valley. A long, narrow depression in the earth's surface formed when the land sinks between two fairly parallel faults. **Rift Valley**. See *Great Rift Valley*.

rig (rig) *tr.v.* rigged, rigging, rigs. 1. To fit out; provide with harness or equipment: *rigged out and ready for action*. 2. a. To equip (a ship) with sails, shrouds, and yards. b. To fit (sails, shrouds, and the like) to masts and yards. 3. *Informal*. To dress, clothe, or adorn: *rigged out in her best dress*. 4. To make or construct in haste or in a makeshift manner. Often used with *up*. 5. To manipulate dishonestly for personal gain: *rig a prize fight*. —*n.* 1. The arrangement of masts, spars, and sails on a sailing vessel: *a square rig*. 2. Any special equipment or gear for a particular purpose. 3. A vehicle with one or more horses

rifle'



Winchester 66



Springfield



M-1 (Garand)



M-16



ridgepole